Rogge Starts Efforts To Link 2 Defendants With V-Postcards

Star 9/1/44

Transcript of Testimony Given by Viereck and Dennett to Be Offered

By CARTER BROOKE JONES.

Efforts to link two defendants in the sedition case with the so-called "V-" card describing the reptiles and diseases awaiting soldiers in West Africa were started today by Chief Prosecutor O. John Rogge in District Court.

Mr. Rogge announced he was prepared to introduce a transcript of testimony these defendants, George Sylvester Viereck and Prescott F. Dennett, gave before a District grand jury.

While the "V" post card was introduced in evidence weeks ago, the Government did not at that time connect it with any particular defendant. The copy admitted as an exhibit allegedly was seized at German-American Bund headquarters and had been addressed to its official newspaper.

Not "Nice Land."

The card, headed "West Africa is not Iceland—it's anything but a nice land," said:

"So they want to send our boys to Africa, there to tackle typhus, typhoid, the dread tsetse fly, sleeping sickness, dysentery, malaria and the bubonic plague!" The card added: "V is for victory. These vain visionaries would send our valiant vanguards to Africa's vilely vicious climate, victimized by verminous voracious insects, venomous snakes, vitiating tropical diseases, voo-dooed and hoodooed by the horrors of war in the hottest hell on earth."

Mr. Rogge offered to stipulate with the defense that two court stenographers would testify that they took down the grand jury records to be offered. All defense attorneys agreed to save time by entering into such a stipulation, but Ellis O. Jones, a defendant representing himself, refused. Chief Justice Edward C. Eicher held that the single objection would make the stipulation ineffective.

The prosecutor said one of the court reporters was out of the city at another hearing and would have to be sent for. This phase of the case was deferred for the time being.

Johnson J. Hayes, jr., FBI agent at Los Angeles, continued testimony he began late yesterday. He described a conference which William Dudley Pelley, a defendant, then leader of the Silver Shirts, held with Bund officials, including National "Fuehrer" Fritz Kuhn. The conference, the witness said, was related by another defendant, Herman Max Schwinn, former West Coast Bund leader, at Terminal Island, Federal detention station in California. Mr. Hayes said Schwinn told him Pelley discussed the future aims of the Silver Shirts with Bund officials.

Pelley Spoke in Bund Center.

Pelley, the witness said Schwinn told him, addressed a Silver Shirt meeting at bund headquarters, attended by a large number of bundists.

Schwinn, according to Mr. Hayes, signed a "consent to search" paper, on which the FBI seized books and documents at the Aryan Bookstore, located at Los Angeles bund headquarters, and in Schwinn's office at the Deutsche Haus, bund headquarters. Schwinn, the witness said, explained he had supervised the bookstore, which another defendant, Hans Diebel, had operated for the bund.

Members of the armed forces attended meetings in Los Angeles sponsored by the Friends of Progress, at which, shortly after Pearl Harbor, the war was denounced and audiences asked not to support it, an earlier witness said.

The witness was Pfc. John J. McLaughlin, Marine Corps, who corroborated testimony of his wife, Mrs. Betty Lee McLaughlin, in describing the meetings.

The 26 defendants are charged with conspiring to incite the armed forces to disloyalty and mutiny.